

Country Context Report - Comoros

General Country Information

Africa Education Initiative Program Activities

Ambassadors' Girls' Scholarship Program
Marginalized Communities

Primary Language(s)

Arabic: Official

French: Official

Shikomoro (a blend of Swahili and Arabic) is also spoken.

Sources

CIA, 2005: The World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/flags/us-flag.html>

Population

| | Total | Male | Female |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total | 671,247 | 333,023 | 338,224 |
| Under 14 | 287,250 | 144,075 | 143,175 |

Comoros is a group of three islands, Grande Comore, Anjouan, Moheli and several islets.

Sources

Atlappedia online ; Countries Atoz - <http://www.atlappedia.com/online/countries/comoros.htm>

CIA, 2005: The World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/flags/us-flag.html>

Ministry of Education Officials

Minister of Education

National Education & Vocational Training
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U.S. Embassy

Ambassador

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Embassy Website: <http://mauritius.usembassy.gov/default.aspx?nm=CON>
The United States closed its Embassy in Moroni in 1993 and is now represented by a non-resident Ambassador in neighboring Mauritius.

Basic Education General Information

Breadth of Basic Education Activities

Length of Primary School Cycle: 6 Years

Sources

Country Studies : Religion and Education - <http://www.country-studies.com/comoros/religion-and-education.html>

Early Childhood Education

Early childhood education is provided.

FY 2003: gross enrollment ratio was 2%

Pupil/teacher ratio 2003: 26/1

Sources

ADEA 2003: GroupWorking_EarlyChildhoodEducation -
http://www.adeanet.org/biennial2003/papers/5D_ECD_%20ENG_final.pdf

In what ways is the education system addressing the needs of marginalized groups? Are there special schools?

There is no discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Sources

US Department of State: 2003: Country Reports on Human Right Practices -
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2003/27720.htm>

Primary School Enrollment by Year and Grade

| Year | Grade | Total | Male | Female | Urban | Rural |
|----------|-------|-------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| 2004 (1) | Total | 65 | | | | |

(1) - primary education 6-11 years: 65%

Sources

(2004) Comoros Country data - <http://www.library.uu.nl/wesp/populstat/Africa/comoresg.htm>

Enrollment Age

| Year | General | Male | Female | Urban | Rural |
|------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| 0 | | 6 | 6 | | |

Sources

All Refer: Religion and Education - <http://reference.allrefer.com/country-guide-study/comoros/comoros27.html>

Average Grade Repetition

| Year | General | Male | Female | Urban | Rural |
|----------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| 2000 (1) | 14 | | | | |
| 1995 | 36 | | | | |

(1) - FY 2000/2001

These figures are percentages.

Enrollment by School Type

| Year | Type | General | Male | Female | Urban | Rural |
|----------|-------------------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| 2005 (1) | Public/Government | 60 | | | | |
| 2002 (2) | Public/Government | 69 | | | | |
| 1999 (3) | Public/Government | 60 | | | | |

(1) - These figures are percentages.

(2) - These figures are percentages.

(3) - These figures are percentages.

Sources

US Department of State, (2005): Background Note - <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5236.htm>

Average Distance to School by Year and Grade

| Year | Grade | General | Urban | Rural |
|------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| 2003 | Total | 1.00 km | | |

Sources

UNICEF 2003_Girls` Education in Comoros - [http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/files/Comoros_2003_\(w.corrections\).doc](http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/files/Comoros_2003_(w.corrections).doc)

What is the status of Muslim education?

Practically all children attend Koranic school for two or three years, starting around age five. There they learn the rudiments of the Islamic faith and some classical Arabic. When rural children attend these schools, they sometimes move away from home and help the teacher work his land.

Sources

Country Studies_Religion and Education - <http://www.country-studies.com/comoros/religion-and-education.html>

Additional Basic Education General Information

Donor Information

UNICEF - 2000

US\$ 1,953,000

Education Program for period 1997 to 2001

United States Agency for International Development - 2000

US\$ 10,000

Basic Education

World Bank - 1997

US\$ 7,000,000

Education III for period 1997 to 2000

Sources

Globalmarch (2002)_Overview of Education Funding - <http://www.globalmarch.org/education-campaign/education.pdf>

Teacher Training

Number of Teacher Training Institutions. Names and Addresses of Prominent Institutions

General

Number of Institutions: 1

Comoros has no university but does offer post-secondary education. Post-secondary education is provided at the Official School (l'Ecole Officielle) based on the French education model. It is public and limited to a number of programs in teacher training, agriculture, health sciences, and a business school. The school has an overall capacity of 200 students.

Sources

All Refer: Religion and Education - <http://reference.allrefer.com/country-guide-study/comoros/comoros27.html>

INHEA 2003: Country Higher Education Profiles - http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/soe/cihe/inhea/profiles/Comoros.htm

Girls' Education

What are the primary reasons for girls' low enrollment and completion rates?

- Lack of qualified teachers as half of the teachers are untrained and even fewer have benefited from in-service training. A low proportion of teachers are women, so there are few educated role models for girls. The capacity of the teacher training institute is very limited, and teacher recruitment has been reduced.
- Lack of adequate infrastructure like insufficient classrooms, furniture, and sanitation facilities—particularly separate facilities for girls—contribute to poor quality of schooling.
- Few resources for schooling since government allocations for education are low. On the three islands that make up Comoros, over half of the population live in poverty and can contribute little to their children's education. A lot of girls are kept out of school for domestic labor choices or income generation to supplement the family income.
- Irrelevant curriculum and instruction as it is not sensitive to gender or relevant to students' lives and it discriminates against girls.
- Power struggles: The central government and local island governments are vying for control, thus delaying the finalization and implementation of education policies and strategies.

Sources

UNICEF 2003_Girls' Education in Comoros - [http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/files/Comoros_2003_\(w.corrections\).doc](http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/files/Comoros_2003_(w.corrections).doc)

Is there evidence of curriculum revision?

Innovative teaching practices

With the support of UNICEF and other partners, the government of Comoros expects to revise the curriculum and produce educational materials, offer in-service training to current teachers, improve supervision, recruit qualified teachers, and train school councils in management.

Sources

UNICEF 2003_Girls' Education in Comoros - [http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/files/Comoros_2003_\(w.corrections\).doc](http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/files/Comoros_2003_(w.corrections).doc)

What are the reforms most likely to stimulate the enrollment and persistence of girls in school?

- Mobilize the population to support girls' education through advocacy campaigns that use national and local media and target parents, school councils, head teachers, teachers, and local associations in selected districts
- Improve school infrastructure by providing furniture and equipment and by constructing water supply facilities and latrines.

Sources

UNICEF 2003_Girls' Education in Comoros - [http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/files/Comoros_2003_\(w.corrections\).doc](http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/files/Comoros_2003_(w.corrections).doc)

Is there evidence of reforms to reduce the cost of schooling?

Evidence of reforms to reduce the cost of schooling exist.

With the support of UNICEF and other partners, the government of Comoros expects to reduce the costs of school supplies, and institute a cost recovery scheme in communities.

Sources

UNICEF 2003_Girls' Education in Comoros - [http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/files/Comoros_2003_\(w.corrections\).doc](http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/files/Comoros_2003_(w.corrections).doc)

Textbooks and Other Learning Materials

To what extent is information communication technology available/used in basic education?

ICT Available

Communications:

Telephones - main lines in use: 13,200 (2003)

Telephones - mobile cellular: 2,000 (2003)

Sources

CIA, 2005: The World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/flags/us-flag.html>

Description of Transportation Systems and Projected Improvements

Highways

total: 880 kilometers

paved: 673 kilometers

unpaved: 207 kilometers

Airports with paved runways

total: 4

2,438 to 3,047 miles: 1

914 to 1,523 miles: 3

Ports and Harbors: Fomboni, Moroni, Moutsamoudou

Sources

CIA, 2005: The World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/flags/us-flag.html>